

By the Numbers Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

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The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) is a Department of Energy facility designed to safely isolate defense-related transuranic (TRU) waste from people and the environment. WIPP, which began waste disposal operations in 1999, is located 26 miles outside of Carlsbad, New Mexico. Waste temporarily stored at sites around the country is shipped to WIPP and permanently disposed in rooms mined out of an ancient salt formation below the surface. TRU waste destined for WIPP consists of clothing, tools, rags, debris, residue and other disposal items contaminated with radioactive elements – mostly plutonium.



24 hours/day

shipments are tracked and monitored around the clock by satellite.



70,414 M³

of waste disposed in the underground mine (Total Land Withdrawal Act Volume).

105,928

metric tons of salt mined in panel 8.

2,150 feet

depth to disposal rooms from the surface. By comparison, if WIPP were a building, it would be the second tallest in the world.

12,904

shipments safely transported more than 15 million loaded miles.

By the end of **2025**

a set of key infrastructure projects will be completed, improving WIPP capabilities in mining and waste emplacement.

7

waste disposal rooms in each disposal panel measuring 300 feet long, 33 feet wide and 13 feet high.

263,205

containers emplaced in the WIPP underground.

540,000

cubic feet per minute. WIPP's new permanent underground ventilation system will increase airflow.



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